

**CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
YEAR 24 DRAFT ACTION PLAN - PROJECT / ACTIVITY LISTING**

On or about July 1, 2007 the City of Northampton will receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$ 768,418 from the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

In addition to the City's Year 24 award, prior year CDBG funds, which have been programmed but not yet expended, shall be referenced within the Year 24 Action Plan. The City has taken this step in order to provide the public a comprehensive list of activities to be undertaken during the Year 24 program year.

Pursuant to HUD regulations, activities must meet one of the following CDBG national objectives: (1) activities benefiting persons of low and moderate income; (2) activities aiding in the elimination of slums and blight. The following outlines activities and/or programs to be funded by the CDBG program beginning July 1, 2007 and the priority objectives that they address.

Housing Activities \$ 70,000

Undertake the following housing activities designed to address health, safety, and building code issues and stabilize the City's housing stock, ensuring decent, safe and affordable housing for the City's low and moderate income residents; undertake a homebuyer assistance program; assist with the development of affordable rental housing; provide assistance to local development organizations developing affordable housing; and establish a housing drawdown fund which will accept applications for CDBG funds as projects are identified.

Elder Home Repair Program \$ 50,000

Undertake a home repair program targeted to income eligible homeowners 60 years of age or older. Timeframe: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

First Time Homebuyer Assistance \$ 20,000

Undertake a first time homebuyer assistance program, which provides direct referrals to HOME funded down payment assistance programs and/or HOME funded units for low and moderate-income households pursuing homeownership. Timeframe: July 1, 2007– June 30, 2008

Housing Drawdown Fund Amount Unknown

Establish a housing drawdown fund available for the preservation and creation of affordable rental housing and homeownership projects targeted to the City's low and moderate-income residents. As opportunities are identified, applications for funding shall be made to the Northampton Housing Partnership and Office of Planning & Development for funding recommendation to the Mayor. Timeframe: Rolling Application Process beginning July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Public Infrastructure Improvements \$ 25,000

Undertake public infrastructure improvements within CDBG eligible areas with the goal of providing a suitable living environment for low / moderate income citizens.

Streetscapes and Sidewalks

\$ 25,000

Various Locations: Improvements to streetscapes and sidewalks shall include but will not be limited to the following projects.

Sidewalks and Downtown Streetscapes / \$15,000

Curb Cuts for Access / \$5,000

Jackson Street Bikepath Access / \$5,000*

Timeframe: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Public Facilities and Access \$ 396,061

Develop and improve public facilities within CDBG eligible areas and/or those facilities serving the City's low / moderate income population with the goal of ensuring citizens have access to and use of adequate public facilities. Undertake access improvements ensuring persons with physical disabilities have adequate access to public facilities and services.

Northampton Senior Center

\$ 361,061

Payment of debt service obligations for the construction of a full service senior center at 67 Conz Street in Northampton. Timeframe: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Salvo House Kitchen Improvements

\$ 15,000

Improvements to the kitchen at Salvo House including a new and larger walk in freezer; improvements will assist Western Mass Elder Care in operating the elder home delivered meals program. Timeframe: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Access for Municipal Buildings

\$ 10,000*

Provision of access improvements consisting of, but not limited to, automatic door openers for Municipal Hall and the Pulchalski Municipal Building. Timeframe: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Veterans Field

\$ 10,000*

Last phase of renovation for Veterans Field, a community playground within a CDBG eligible neighborhood serving primarily low and moderate income households. Timeframe: July 1, 2006 – June 2007

Economic Development Activities \$ 40,800

Economic development activities that promote job creation and retention within Northampton, and which promote the development of micro-business enterprises, principally targeted to benefit the

City's low and moderate-income citizens.

Micro-Business Assistance Program *\$ 20,000*

Provision of technical assistance to income eligible Northampton residents seeking to develop a small business or expand an existing micro-enterprise including business plan creation, understanding and developing financial systems, marketing, and access to micro-lending funds which provide alternative financing to businesses not able to secure conventional financing.
Timeframe: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Economic Development Loan Program *\$ 20,800 **

Establish a loan pool providing loans to start up businesses and/or businesses expanding with the goal of job creation or retention for low and moderate-income persons. Timeframe: Rolling Application Process July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Public Services \$115,263

Provide funding for public service and anti-poverty programs targeted to the City's low and moderate income population through community based non-profit agencies and organizations. Public services include, but are not limited to, recreational programs, youth programs, housing support programs and the provision of basic needs. Timeframe: July 2007 – June 2008

Big Brothers & Big Sisters / Mentoring Program *\$ 5,803*

A mentoring program targeted to Jackson Street school students; primarily students living at Hampshire Heights, Hampton Gardens, Country Lane Estates, and Hampton Gardens, all subsidized housing developments in Northampton.

CHD / SRO Outreach Project *\$ 19,000*

Services for the residents of the City's single room occupancy (SRO) housing offering outreach services, education, case management, advocacy and emergency food assistance.

Center for New Americans / ESL Classes *\$ 5,500*

Staff costs for English language and computer classes for adult immigrants and their children.

MA Fair Housing Center / Fair Housing Activities *\$ 3,000*

Advocacy and training focusing on fair housing laws and fair lending practices through services provided by the Housing Discrimination Project Inc.

ServiceNet / Grove Street Inn Staffing *\$18,500*

Operating funds for the City's homeless shelter for individuals.

ServiceNet / Hampshire County Interfaith Shelter *\$16,500*

Operating funds for the Interfaith Community Cot Shelter (cold weather homeless shelter).

Manna / Soup Kitchen *\$ 2,500*

Provision of meals three times per week at Edwards Church through Manna, a local soup kitchen program.

<i>Community Action / Generation Q</i>	<i>\$ 5,500</i>
Provision of on- site tutorial assistance, job development training, transitional employment placement and housing assistance services for GLBTQ youth, minorities and allies.	
<i>Freedom Center / Mental Health Access Project</i>	<i>\$ 3,000</i>
Provision of one-to-one peer counseling assistance and peer drop in support at a Northampton location to residents with severe mental illness or at risk for mental illness.	
<i>Northampton Schools / Even Start Program</i>	<i>\$ 5,300</i>
Infant and toddler early childhood education and care for families enrolled in the Even Start program.	
<i>Salvation Army / Housing Services</i>	<i>\$ 7,000</i>
Tenant counseling, advocacy, negotiation and education to prevent evictions and preserve tenancies.	
<i>Community Action / First Call for Help</i>	<i>\$ 5,500</i>
Free confidential information and referral services connecting clients with state, local and private social service resources and programs.	
<i>Cooley Dickinson Hospital / Health Connect Program</i>	<i>\$ 4,950</i>
Case management assistance to low-income uninsured Northampton residents to complete the application process and enrollment in the following insurance programs; Commonwealth Care, Mass Health and Uncompensated Care.	
<i>Mass Justice Project / Income Tax Credit Workshop</i>	<i>\$ 4,710</i>
Free tax preparation and filing services for low and very low-income households, assistance in accessing the federal earned income tax credit.	
<i>Hampshire Regional YMCA / School Aged Child Care</i>	<i>\$ 8,500</i>
After school and before school child care which includes homework help and age appropriate games and activities targeted to students at Jackson Street School.	

Planning and Administration \$ 153,683

Resources utilized to support the Office of Planning & Development in its mission to provide professional planning expertise for the City of Northampton including neighborhood planning, historic preservation, the development and preservation of affordable housing, and administration of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Resources utilized to support the Mayor's Office of Economic Development in its role to provide business support and job creation and retention activities within the City of Northampton.

Funding Sources

Year 24 CDBG Allocation	\$ 768,418
Prior Year CDBG Funds	\$ 45,800 * prior year funding

Total Funding for Year 24 Activities	\$ 814,218

Questions or comments regarding the City's Draft CDBG Action Plan may be directed to the following:

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